

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Danville (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	4/11/73

1. NAME

COMMON:
Danville Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
VDHA # 108-0056 MILLIONAIRE TOWN + OLD WEST END H.D.

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See official map of Historic District

CITY OR TOWN:
Danville

STATE:
Virginia

CODE: **51** COUNTY: **(in city)** CODE: **590**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Danville

STATE:
Virginia

CODE: **51**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clerk's Office of Corporation Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Municipal Building, Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Danville

STATE:
Virginia

CODE: **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958**

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architectural styles and periods of construction in the Danville Historic District cover the full spectrum of design preferences in favor during Danville's history as a city. Based on available historic research, two early nineteenth century houses, in all probability the oldest in Danville, 770 Main Street and 225 Jefferson Avenue, are located in the District. The architectural kaleidoscope continues with examples of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival (notably 893 Pine Street), Italianate, Romanesque, Eastlake, American Queen Anne and the Beaux Arts Classicism of the early twentieth century. The District contains examples of virtually all styles and periods which exist in Danville, with the exception of industrial structures and mill-housing.

Existing land and building use in the District is confined to residential, public and institutional and office uses, with only a small concentration of commercial, at Jefferson and Loyal. Main and West Main Streets are characterized by a high number of public uses (primarily churches and related) medical- the hospital and a great number of doctor's offices, clinic and medically oriented uses, sometimes combined with residential, Stratford College, and quality, rather large scale residential uses interspersed along the entire length of the two streets. The area to the east of Main Street is almost exclusively residential, one and two family structures, with a somewhat uniform character and quality. There are no incompatible uses of major proportions within the District. There are, however, pressures beginning to manifest themselves that may be injurious to the character of the District if proper land use planning is not followed.

Building heights in the Historic District are limited to three stories, with the exception of a new hospital addition and the many church steeples and towers. The predominant height, both along Main and West Main Streets and in the residential area to the east is two stories to two and one-half stories. This factor must be taken into account in any new architectural controls that are proposed for the District.

Structural conditions and environmental quality of properties in the District are for the most part excellent. Concentrations of deficient structures are limited to Green Street, between Park and Sutherlin Streets, a section of Pine near Jefferson, and a one block long strip along Jefferson, Loyal to Patton Streets. Most of the properties in these limited areas are in need of only minor repairs such as painting and general maintenance work, with a relatively small number in need of major repairs, which might include structural replacements, new siding or roofs, etc. The environmental quality of the proposed district is, in general, high, with Green and Jefferson suffering from lack of maintenance, overcrowding on individual lots of small size, lack of maintenance of lawns and planting, and sidewalk deficiencies.

Facade materials vary throughout the Historic District and include brick, clapboard, shingle, stucco, stone and artificial sidings such as asbestos, asphalt shingle and aluminum. The pre-dominant facade material along Main and West Main Streets is brick, with a

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Danville Historic District boasts perhaps the finest and most concentrated collection of Victorian and Edwardian residential architecture in the Commonwealth. Lining Main Street and adjacent side streets is a splendid assemblage of the full range of architectural styles from the Ante-Bellum era to World War I. The District is particularly rich in distinguished examples of the post-Civil War styles such as the High Victorian Italianate, the High Victorian Gothic, French Renaissance Revival, Romanesque Revival, Eastlake, Queen Anne and Beaux Arts; styles in which good examples are generally rare in the South. The existence of these impressive dwellings can be explained by the fact that Danville remained unusually prosperous throughout the late nineteenth century. While most of Virginia was suffering an economic depression brought on by the War and Reconstruction, Danville was thriving from its tobacco trade and other industries. In the 1850's, Thomas Neal instigated the "Danville System", an auction warehouse method which revolutionized the sale of tobacco throughout the South. This method took on new dimensions after the Civil War and many new warehouses were put up in Danville. The leaders of the tobacco industry were among the first groups to erect handsome mansions along Main Street, and the sumptuous Penn-Wyatt house, erected in 1876 by James Gabriel Penn at 862 Main Street, stands as visual evidence of the wealth and taste of the tobacconists.

The houses of the tobacco industrialists soon began to vie in splendor with those of the leaders of Danville's growing textile industry. In 1882, the three Schoolfield brothers along with Thomas Fitzgerald founded the textile mills now known as Dan River, Inc., makers of world famous Dan River fabrics. The Schoolfields erected several fine houses in the District, and 844 Main Street (the Schoolfield-Compson House) ranks among the finest High Victorian dwellings in the state.

Most of this post-Civil War residential growth took place on the hill to the south of the commercial district, in farm land that once was dominated by the Italianate villa-style house of Major William T. Sutherlin. Long used as the public library, the house now serves as the headquarters of the Danville Chapter of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Sutherlin Mansion received fame in 1865 when it served as the last official residence of President Jefferson Davis.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, Russell, AIP, "Danville, Virginia: An Architectural Inventory and Program Recommendations for the Creation of an Historic District," July, 1971.

Files of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36 ° 35 ' 10 "	79 ° 24 ' 34 "		0	0	
NE	36 ° 35 ' 10 "	79 ° 23 ' 38 "				
SE	36 ° 34 ' 39 "	79 ° 23 ' 38 "				
SW	36 ° 34 ' 39 "	79 ° 24 ' 34 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **110 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **September, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

J. R. Fishburne, Director

Title **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**

Date

NOV 21 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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#7 Description

number of clapboarded and stucco structures. Clapboard is the predominant material in the residential area to the east of Main Street, with some brick, shingle, and artificial siding interspersed. One of the least pleasing visual aspects of the proposed district is this use of artificial siding materials--asbestos, asphalt and aluminum, a mid-twentieth century phenomenon.

Building coverage and setback are fairly constant, with most buildings maintaining a common setback line along the street frontage. This is particularly true in the residential area east of Main Street, where the only changes to the setback line occur at the school and large open lot on Holbrook Avenue, and two vacant lots along the west side of Green Street. The east side of Main Street is broken visually in the 800 block, with vacant lots between residences and the deeper setback for the Church. The large vacant lots at the corners of Main and Chestnut and Main and Holbrook are of critical importance to the visual character of Main Street. The Sutherlin House, or Confederate Memorial is set back to its rear lot line, but because of the visual importance of the structure itself, and the well kept grounds, this break in Main Street is a welcome open space. The one violation to the general rule of setbacks fronting on the west side of Main Street is the YWCA, while West Main Street retains a common setback except for a new funeral home at Aiken Street and a parcel now under construction at West End Avenue. Lot coverage is not as critical in the District, because of the depth of most of the lots. Existing zoning is limited to three classifications within the District, Residence R-3, Commercial L-C, and Commercial C-2. A review of the zoning regulations points out a serious potential problem in the Commercial C-2 District, which is centered along Jefferson Avenue.

R. W.

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#8 Significance

The most fashionable address for the Danville industrialists was along Main Street, in the vicinity of the Sutherlin Mansion, but many equally fine dwellings were erected along the quiet streets to the east. Interspersed among the ornate piles and their more modest neighbors were elaborate houses of worship, usually in a Gothic mode. Although a number of important houses have disappeared over the years, and several modern intrusions have been introduced, the District as a whole maintains a turn-of-the-century character. Unlike many neighborhoods of its age and type, the District has not become an economically depressed area, and the uses of the buildings have not been changed significantly. Indeed many of the houses still are lived in by the families of the builders. Recently protected by historic district zoning the District has been given new hope for preservation.

CCL

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Danville, Va. 1965

DANVILLE QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

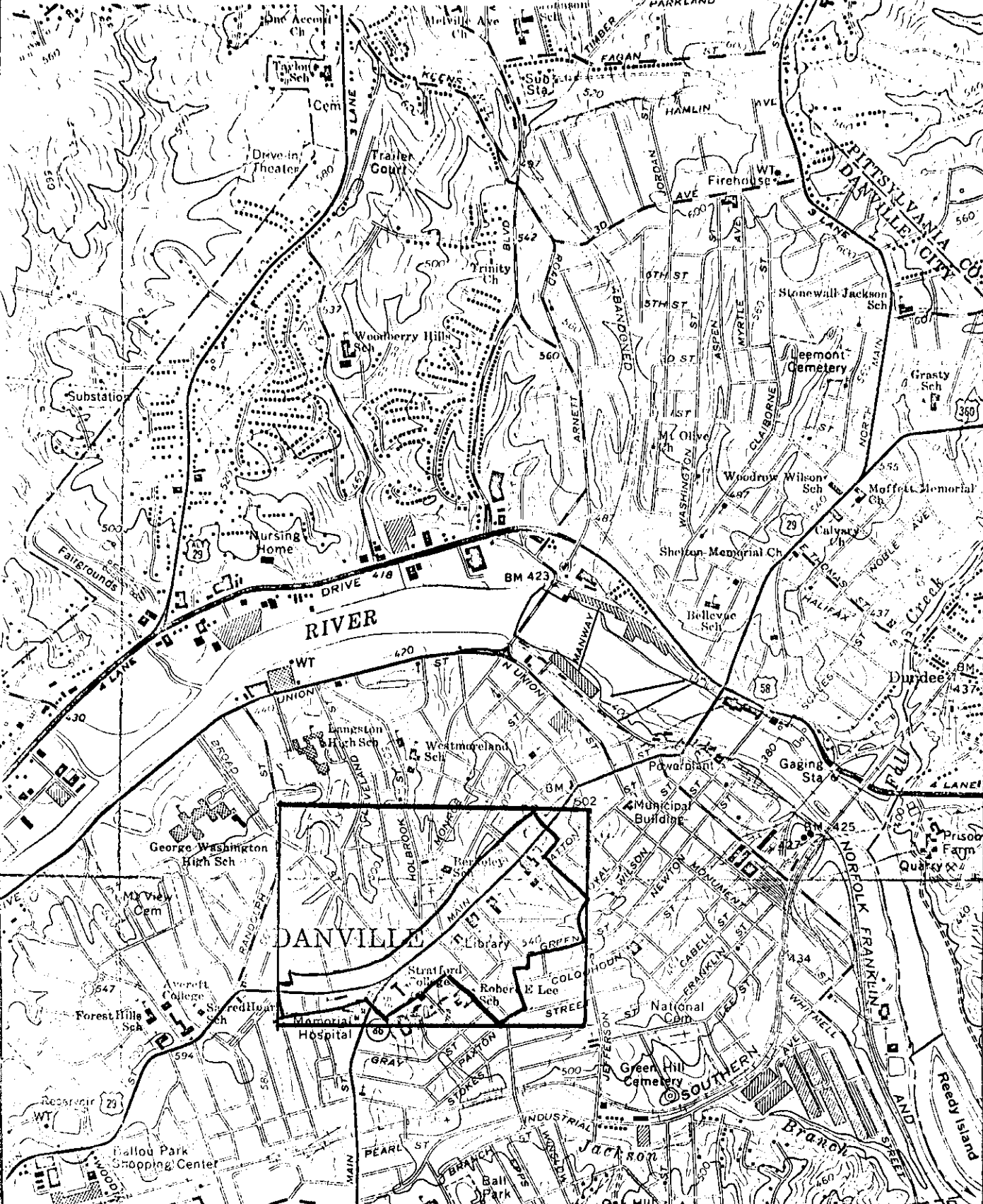
5157 III NE
 (BLAIRS)

DANVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

latitude	longitude
NW36°35'10"	79°24'34"
NE36°35'10"	79°23'38"
SE36°34'39"	79°23'38"
SW36°34'39"	79°24'34"

#108-0056

SW/4 DANVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
 ALLANDS (VA. 57) 20 MI. LYNCHBURG 61 MI.
 SWANSONVILLE 14 MI. CHATHAM 14 MI. 79°22'30"
 36°37'30"



100 000 FEET
 (VA.)

BEAVER PARK 5 MI.
 HALIFAX 36 MI.

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